THE

Loyal Proteſtants VINDICATION,

FAIRLY

Offered to All thoſe Sober Minds

WHO

Have the Art of Uſing

REASON,

AND

The Power of Suppreſsing

PASSION.

By a Queen Elizabeth *Proteſtant.*

LONDON,

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THE

Loyal Protestants

VINDICATION,

THE Loyal Proteſtants VINDICATION.

Fellow Natives and Brother Proteſtants.

FOR by Birth and Charity we are bound ſo to call you. And we hope, That (upon the Ebbs of your heat and humour) you will out of humility think it fit at laſt to call Us ſo too.

It cannot de denied, but that (ever ſince the Bleſſed Reformation) Proteſtaniſm is the Common Cauſe and Intereſt of *England*. And that he only is to be reputed Our Enemy, who ſhall and doth by Plots and Deſigns endeavour, either to Subvert or Alter our Government, as it now ſtands by Law eſtabliſhed both in Church and State.

Now for the Blaſting and Defeating of all wicked Conſpiracies againſt Our Eſtabliſhed Government, both at preſent and for the future, I can aſſure you, that you have our Heads, our Hands and our Hearts. Nor can you be more zealous for the Overthrow of the late diſcovered Damnable and Helliſh Popiſh Plot, and the ſuppreſſing the Growth of Popery, than the true honeſt-minded Church of *England* men are. Pardon them only in this; That they love a Zeal regulated with Prudence, and ſoftned with Moderation.

You all very well know, That it hath been of late the great artifice of the Jeſuited Party to intrude (if poſſible) their damnable Plot upon that Claſſis of Proteſtants call'd *Presbyterians*. Who I am perſwaded have learn'd from their former miſcarriages, That it is both theirs and all Proteſtants Intereſt, not to diſturb our National Government, or diſoblige their Prince.

And I could heartily wiſh that the Papiſts might never have had any colourable pretence for fathering their Brat of Rebellion upon any ſort of Proteſtants amongſt Us. And this they would never have had, if the years between 1640. and 60. could be raz'd out of the Book of Time, and the memory of this Age.

But whatever things the Papiſts may Revive to ſerve their Cauſe, We are willing to forget them, ſo it may heal our Breaches, and Cement us together in a Brotherly Aſſiſtance of each other, for the ſaving both of You and Us, and our Proteſtant Religion.

And for the effectual promoting of ſo conſiderable and publick a concern, I think all judicious and thoughtful men will allow that there is nothing ſo eſſential and neceſſary as our Union. And though it's not reaſonable to expect, that all the ſorts of Proteſtants in *England* ſhould in a moment concentre in one mind, in one judgment and opinion: Yet what ſhould hinder, but that they may have a reciprocal kindneſs and love one for another, and one and the ſame Loyalty to their Prince?

Unleſs the Proteſtant parties in *England* are like the Princes in *Germany*, wherein every one is ſo much wedded to his own intereſt, that he had rather ſee the Emperor dethron'd, and the whole Empire loſt, than loſe one little *Regalia* of his own to ſave it.

Never were the Papiſts ſo full of Plots, and ſo big with hopes as now. And never was the Wicked one ſo buſie in ſowing the Seeds of diſcord and contention as within this moneth or two laſt paſt. For to an obſerving eye the Print of the Cloven foot hath been eaſily ſeen in all the Roads, Cities, Towns and Corporations of *England* within that time.

And whatever Sentiments ſome Over-zealous and miſguided men may have of linking and liſting themſelves and names, under the form of a Petition; yet certainly none but the *Jeſuite*, (who alone hath the Art of out doing the Devil in malice and miſchief) could have invented a more proper and effectual way of ſetting Proteſtants in *England* at a greater variance and diſtance than ever they were before.

The Old weather-beaten courſe which the *Jeſuits* uſed to make us Proteſtants hateful to, and hating one of another, was to caſt upon ſome the name and character of *Calviniſts*, upon ſome *Arminians*, upon ſome *Socinians*, upon ſome *Pelagians*, upon ſome *Cavaliers* and *Malignants*, upon ſome *Covenanters* and *Round-heads* after the old ſtyle; but now *Churchmen* and *Fanaticks*, or Court and Countrey party, after the ſtyle of the neweſt faſhions.

But now ſince the *Jeſuit* perceives that We Proteſtants begin to ſmell the device of theſe Nick-names, and that we are growing ſo skilful as to diſcern that theſe are only bones thrown in amongſt us, merely to make us ſnarl, and bite, and devour one another; Therefore the *Jeſuits* (to perpetuate and continue the Proteſtant fray and ſcuffle, which is the only advantage to their Cauſe) have now at this time (if not invented) yet at leaſt ſet on foot a Form and mode of Petitioning, which muſt inevitably run us into fearful Broyles, if not timely prevented.

For pray obſerve, With what heat and earneſtneſs did ſome preſs the Subſcription of it upon others their fellow ſubjects? With what Reluctancy and ſtubbornneſs did others deny and refuſe it? How paſſionatelyand bitterly did many in *Coffee-Houſes* and other places debate and argue the lawfulneſs and unlawfulneſs of it?

And it's to be wiſht, that in ſome Towns, Pariſhes, and Neighbourhoods it be not the ſtanding cauſe of irreconcileable feuds and quarrels among the people. For ſuch hath been the imprudence of ſome Hotheaded men that carried this Petition about for Subſcriptions, that they told the un-thinking vulgar, it was the *Shibboleth* to diſcern between the Proteſtants and Papiſts in *England*.

And hence many of them (poor Souls!) out of fear and ignorance ſet their Hands, but more their Marks to it: when as they, and thoſe that Preſt it upon them, can give no juſt poſitive account, whether this Petition, and the *Solemn League and Covenant*, were invented and fram'd either by a Papiſt or a Proteſtant.

And

And now is not this a pretty piece of Sport to our Common enemy the Papiſt, to ſee a Leaf of paper ſet all *England* in a Flame, and create moſt deſperate Animoſities amongſt its Proteſtant natives? Could there be any Project or Device (next to the killing of our Gracious Soveraign whom God long preſerve) ſo eſſential and proper for the Ruine of Us, and our Proteſtant Religion as this?

What need have the Papiſts of Collections from their friends? or moneys from the Holy Chamber? or of Armyes from Foreign Popiſh Princes? when as our Diviſions, which they have ſet up amongſt us, will with good looking after moſt certainly and inevitably do this work to their hands, without any ſuch coſt or trouble.

Serious and frequent have been our Addreſſes to you for a Brotherly Correſpondence and Reconciliation, and your Joyning with Us in the Defence and Preſervation of the Proteſtant Religion. Nay we have made it Our Humble Requeſts to You, that you would do Us that Right and Juſtice, as to own and allow us to be Proteſtants as well as your ſelves. And yet ſuch hath been the hard fate and misfortune of Our Gentleneſs and Meekneſs towards you, that like the Grace of God to proud and wanton ſinners, they have been ſcorn'd and rejected.

For inſtead of any Civilities to us for this our Humble Demeanour, you have imperiouſly aſcended the Seat of Judgment, and the Chair of the Scorner: Loading us with Scoffs and Reproaches, and condemning us for Hereticks and Papiſts. Nay, ſo mightily Sowr'd are you in your Opinions and Judgments of an *Engliſh* Church-man, that you nauſeate him, as you pretend to do a Papiſt, and ſhun his converſe and ſight as much as a man of curdled bloud doth Cheeſe.

But whatever Treatments you are pleaſed to give us, or whatever Liveries you think fit to Clothe us withal; yet (begging your leave) we ſhall deſire this freedom as to cleanſe our Garments from thoſe foul Aſperſions thrown upon them from Pulpits in *Conventicles*, Libels from the Preſs, and thoſe Scurrilous Reproaches vented by Republican Tools and Tantivy's.

And therefore let him that hath Eyes and Learning to read, Conſider the Loyal Proteſtants Vindication,

In theſe following Particulars,

FIRST, We do own and love all Proteſtants of whatever Sort, Title and Name, that do really abominate the Superſtitious fooleries and Heretical Doctrines of the Church of *Rome*.

Secondly, We do Approve and Delight in all Perſons, which aſſert and vindicate the King's Supremacy over all Perſons and in all Cauſes both in Church and State.

Thirdly, We countenance and commend all ſuch, who mind their own buſineſs and ſtudy to be quiet, and who out of Duty as well as Modeſty have ſo good and juſt opinion of their preſent Soveraign's Art and Judgment in Governing, that they will not preſume to preſcribe him rules and methods of managing the people which God hath committed to his care and charge.

For ſuch hath been his Education, and ſo much experience hath he learnt in foreign Courts and Countreys, during his Exile, that we can

positively say, He is the Wiſeſt King in *Chriſtendom*, and the beſt Statesman in all his whole Kingdom.

Fourthly, We are for giving all men their juſt dues according to their Dignities, Places, and Qualities, and do abominate all thoſe harſh and rough methods, which irritate our Superiors anger and diſpleaſure. For certainly of all perſons, Governours chiefly are to be oblig'd and not forc't.

Fifthly, We do verily believe, that according to the Contents of our New Teſtament, no man ought to Affront and Vilifie his Princes Perſon and Authority either in words or deeds. And that if he cannot conform to the Government of his Prince, yet he is bound in Conſcience, not to be openly, publickly, and actually diſobedient, eſpecially where the Prince is Chriſtian and Proteſtant too. And where the ground of Subjects Obedience and Diſobedience is purely about Things Indifferent, which is a thing that wholly excludes all doubts and ſcruples of Conſcience.

Sixthly, We do abominate, and as ſeaſonably and prudentially as we can, rebuke and ſuppreſs all ſorts of Vices and Immoralities without reſpect had to perſons. And ſhould be heartily glad to ſee Whoredom, Adultery, Drunkenneſs, Swearing and Pride, to grow out of faſhion in the Kingdom; as we wiſh, Malice, Spight, Backbiting, Cenſuring, Slandering, Railing and Bitterneſs of Spirit may decay amongſt you.

Seventhly, We heartily Love, and highly Applaud all plain-hearted and publick-ſpirited men, who aim and endeavour at things for the Kings Honour and Greatneſs, and the real good of the whole Kingdom. But we do deteſt and abhor all ſelf-ended and ſelf-ſeeking men, eſpecially thoſe who engage a whole Kingdom for a particular diſguſt; and ſtudy revenge for a private defeat they have received, or who deſign to make themſelves Popular, great and rich under the Pretence of ſerving the Publick.

Eighthly, We heartily pray, and uſe all the intereſt we have, that this late Damnable Helliſh Popiſh Plot, (which God in mercy to us all hath brought to light) may be daily more and more detected and brought to a final Period. And we joyn with you in our ſouls, that the *Parliament* may ſit for the Tryal of thoſe Great Conſpirators, who cannot be otherwiſe Tryed but by *Parliament*. But as for the time, when this *Parliament* ſhould ſit about this weighty affair, we humbly leave it to His Majeſties Prudence, who, of all men hath the ſole right, and is beſt able to chuſe the ſeaſonableneſs of doing it.

Ninthly, We do firmly believe, that the Preſent Actings and Deſigns of Our Enemies the *Papiſts* are ſo wicked and evil, and Our Cauſe ſo Good and Juſt, that we dare (with the uſe of lawful and juſtifiable means) in an humble confidence refer the whole matter into the hands of Providence, not doubting but that God will ſo rule the heart of our King, and direct his Councils, that We and Our Religion will at laſt have as Memorable a Deliverance, as any of thoſe which have been in the Days of our Anceſtors.

Tenthly, We do affirm, and can juſtifie it: That the Men of the Church of *England* are the true, right, and only Proteſtants. And for this we dare appeal to the known Laws of the Land, to the *Hugonots* of *France*, and all the *Calviniſtical* and *Lutheran* Churches abroad; for whenever they write or ſpeak of the Church of *England*, they mean that which is eſtabliſhed by Law in our Nation.

And

And becauſe the Memory of Queen *Elizabeth* is always ſo freſh and fragrant in your minds, that you keep her Anniverſary Coronation-day above all other Proteſtant Kings of *England*, with the ſolemnities of Bonefires and ringing of Bells. We therefore take the opportunity to declare to you; That it's not you, but we are the Men, who are not only the Legal, but the true Queen *Elizabeth* Proteſtants. And I would adviſe you, the next time you obſerve that Day, (which I ſhall obſerve with you) that you would enquire into your ſelves, whether you are the Proteſtants of that mould and ſtamp, which ſhe loved, and her Laws protected in her Reign.

Eleventhly, Though you take a pride or pleaſure, or both, to repreſent us to the Vulgar under thoſe filthy characters of Mungrel Proteſtants, Half Proteſtants, Proteſtants in Maſquerade, and Church Papiſts. Yet under our patient bearing of your Reproaches: We beg your pardon to make this Declaration: That we do abhor and deteſt thoſe black and odious Titles. And had you but a ſpark of modeſty, or a grain of reaſon, or the leaſt inſight into our Laws, you would have long ſince forborn to perſecute us with this ſlanderous Accuſation.

What was Queen *Elizabeth* a good Proteſtant, and now muſt the Queen *Elizabeth* Proteſtants be counted no Proteſtants, or call'd half Proteſtants, and Proteſtants in Maſquerade? What doth the *Jeſuit* and *Papiſts* hate us, and plot to deſtroy us, becauſe he finds us the beſt and trueſt Proteſtants? And muſt you to Reviſe us and ſeek to Root us out: becauſe we are not Proteſtants according to your ſtandard?

Certainly had you but any wit or Reaſon about you, you might plainly ſee; That whatever you think of us, the *Papiſts* take us only to be the trueſt Proteſtants, and their greateſt Enemies. For it's againſt Us that all theſe malicious Plots are levell'd. And they have only ſet you up as Tools and Inſtruments to compleat their deſign. For alas, there is hardly one amongſt all your Parties hath writ ſo Judiciouſly and Rationally againſt the Church of *Rome*, as to deſerve either a Learned *Papiſts* reading or anſwer.

And now muſt our Biſhops, Doctors and Divines be the only Champions for the Proteſtant Religion againſt the *Romaniſts*. And yet muſt their Hearers and Followers be branded with the Ignominious Names of Half Proteſtants, Church Papiſts, and Proteſtants in Maſquerade?

For ſhame forbear theſe unchriſtian ſlanders; or elſe all foreign Proteſtants will ſay, that you want both manners and modeſty, or which is worſe, brains and reaſon.

Go on, if you pleaſe, with your trade of Calumniating: But thus plain we will be with you, to acquaint you, that our Eyes are ſo open, as to ſee you uſe one way, and the *Papiſts* uſe another way, to deſtroy and Ruine the Church of *England*, with its Proteſtant profeſſors. And we declare, That from our knowledge of you Both, we expect no Quarter or mercy from either of you.

For the Church of *England* men have already endured two Perſecutions, the one of Fire in the Reign of Queen *Mary*, the other of the Sword in our late Unnatural Wars, when men of your own kidney Plundered, Sequeſtred, Impriſoned, Hanged and Beheaded many Thouſands, for no other Crime, but that they were Loyal Subjects, and Queen *Elizabeth* Proteſtants. And now we are Expecting to fall under a Third Perſecution: But whether it will come from the *Papiſts*, or *You*, we cannot as yet ſo eaſily Diſcern.

Laſtly,

Lastly, Because you so arrogantly call your selves *The Protestants*, and the *True Protestants*; and so scoffingly call us the *Half Protestants*, and *Church Papists*, and *Protestants in Masquerade*:

We therefore send you this Challenge.

Go if you dare with us into *Westminster-Hall*, to the Assizes and Quarter-Sessions before the Judges and Justices of the Peace; and there (if you dare) take with Us the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy. Renounce with us the Doctrine of Transubstantiation, and the Solemn League and Covenant. Subscribe with us the Declaration of the Unlawfulness of taking up Arms against the King. And bring with us your Certificates of Receiving the Sacrament according to the Church of *England*.

This, This is the Test and Shiboleth to distinguish *Protestants* from *Papists*, and not your Form of Petition which lately went in Procession; and should your boasted multitudes of Subscribers be brought to this Touchstone, we know that three parts of five would run a great danger of being convicted for *Recusants* by Law; for many of you who proudly call your selves the *True Protestants*, will as stifly deny the doing of these things as the Rankest *Papist* in *England*.

In love therefore I desire you to refrain from the Villifying us with the filthy characters of *Protestants* in Masquerade, and Church-Papists, since that we have been so kind to you for many years, as not to put you upon this Tryal, which we know would be as ungrateful and prejudicial to you as any *Papists*.

And if you cannot out of Modesty and Charity, yet out of Interest learn to be more Sober and Moderate to your fellow Natives and *Protestant* Brethren; and do not Calumniate the Honest Church-men of *England* who Pray for you, and love you better than you do your selves, and would be glad to have you to joyn with them in all lawful and justifiable ways, for the overthrow of all *Popish* Plots, and the Preservation of that *Protestant* Religion which is Established by Law.

And now let all the World Judge, whether We or You, are Half-Protestants, and Protestants in Masquerade; since that We will abide by those Legal Tryals and Touch-stones, which are the National Discriminations between *Protestants* and *Papists*: and You, or the major-part of You, refuse these *Tests* as well as the *Papists*; and as long as You stand in the Refusal of them, You are but *Papists* in a *Protestant* disguise.

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